

Anne Fesh

From: glenn plunkett [gplunk2@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2000 10:56 AM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Docket No. 99-339 video description

These comments are submitted for consideration in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

I appreciate your vote requiring the networks to begin providing a service that is essential to people who are blind and visually impaired. As you have recognized, in your courageous stand in this situation, blind and visually impaired people have the right to the full enjoyment and benefit of television transmissions; which is not available without description of the settings and actions on the screen. For anyone who remembers the radio shows before television, we had descriptions of the settings and actions, otherwise we would have not been able to visualize the scenes and actions. The same should be available to blind and visually impaired people who cannot visualize the scenes and action of television shows without description. To my knowledge, the petitioners have not provided you any new information on which to base a different decision. Please stand firm!

Sincerely, Glenn M. Plunkett

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Anne Fesh

From: Richard Polt [polt@xavier.xu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 1:50 PM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: vs. reconsideration of video description (Docket 99-339)

To: Commissioners of the FCC
Re: Docket No. 99-339
Subject: in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the
reported order on video description

Thank you for your vote requiring the networks to provide video
description. This service is of inestimable value to people who are
blind and visually impaired.

The petitioners have not provided any new information which was not
already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the
ruling. I urge you to stand by your decision.

Sincerely,

Richard Polt
polt@xavier.xu.edu

NASSAU LIBRARY SYSTEM

Special Library Services

October 31, 2000

Megalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION

Dear Secretary Salas:

I want to tell the Commissioners of our appreciation for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing the essential service of video description for people who are blind and visually impaired. As the librarian for the Sub-Regional Library for the Blind here in Nassau County, NY, I am perhaps more aware of the value of this service than an individual can be. My awareness is in the *aggregate*.

Many of our thousands of readers of Talking Books, tell us of the value of descriptive films and videos to their lives. Also, I have watched descriptive videos in group audiences with our readers and the enjoyment and understanding they evince is utterly amazing to watch. In order to provide this pleasure for our blind and visually impaired readers, we have had to purchase a few expensive (for us, a non-profit library) videos.

Having description for blind and visually impaired people by turning on the TV set after April, 2002, will help them increase their access to information, and assist them in understanding the visual aspects of television programming. What a wonderful time that will be.

All citizens in our democracy deserve access to information.

Please know how important the Commission's ruling is. I cannot imagine how the Federal Communications Commission could possibly reconsider.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Puryear

Anne Fesh

From: Risa Racecar [confusionisnext@disinfo.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2000 6:12 PM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: in opposition to the petitioners 99-339

regarding docket no. 99-339:

hurray for video description!
viva la fcc!
be proud of yrselves
don't let those petitioners bug you

-racecar

Email your boss can't read - sign up for free disinfo.net email
at <http://www.disinfo.com>, your gateway to the underground

Attn. Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 99-339
Disability Rights, video description

I wish to impress upon the commission my appreciation of the courageous vote by the commissioners requiring that the networks begin providing the essential video descriptions of network programs to the visually impaired. Without these descriptions those of us who cannot see the television screens properly are not able to follow the network programs and lose out on the information that we need to perform our civic functions within our communities.

I feel that the petitioners for reconsideration have not provided any new or pertinent information beyond that which was previously considered at the time that the FCC reached its' original decision and issued its' ruling.

I oppose any changes that the petitioners may present.

I am writing this letter on behalf of myself and others who are legally blind and who may not be able to correspond with you appropriately.

Signed, Aleck P. Rafalovich

I AM SENDING THIS IN BEHALF
OF MY FRIEND ALECK.

Larry Young, Ventura, CA
805-658-7633

Anne Fesh

From: Richard Nathanson [rich-judy@home.com]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2000 9:25 PM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: Letter Opposing Reconsideration of Video Descriptions

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

Reference: Docket No. 99-399

**IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER
ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION:**

As a blind woman I truly appreciate your ruling on July 21, 2000 that require video description for television programming starting in April 2002. I cannot express the anticipation that I feel to be able to more fully participate in the many aspects of television viewing that I have only partially been able to enjoy up to now.

I do not understand why the National Federation of the Blind has joined program providers in "Petitions to Reconsider" your decision. I'm sure that the program providers are concerned about the cost. However, the blind are also consumers and purchasers of advertised products, and the availability of this service will, I am sure, increase our viewing of both programs and commercials. I am also unaware of any additional information or factors that you did not consider when approving video descriptions.

I urge you to continue your support for video descriptions and the benefits it will bring to the blind community. I know that it will greatly enhance my enjoyment of a medium that sighted people take for granted, but that I and others cannot.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opposition to reconsideration of your decision mandating video description of television programming.

Robin C. Rehder
23 Manor Ave.
Baltimore MD 21206
rich-judy@home.com

Anne Fesh

From: Mary.Reimer@mckhboc.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 3:07 PM
To: Info@acb.org
Subject: Fwd:Docket No. 99-339



Forward.txt

I am writing regarding Docket No. 99-339.

First off, I want to applaud the FCC Commissioners for voting to require television networks to begin providing video description of key visual elements for blind and visually impaired viewers. As a visually impaired person who has difficulty seeing a screen - and therefore has often opted not to look at television programming - I look forward to turning on the television set in April 2002 and using video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programming. I am writing in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. It is my understanding that the petitioners have not provided any new information that was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decisions and issued the ruling.

Mary Reimer
5468 Manila Avenue
Oakland, CA 94618

November 4, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Docket No. 99-339
Official filing in opposition to petitioners
for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

Dear Secretary Salas:

Thank you and the rest of the Federal Communications Commission for the courageous stand you took on July 21, 2000. Your ruling on video description, coupled with your previous rulings on captioning for Deaf and hard-of-hearing people, shows me that the FCC is truly committed to giving *all* Americans fair access to entertainment as well as news and emergency information. Since many of my friends are visually impaired, I cannot tell you how excited I am when I think about April, 2002.

The petitioners have not introduced any new information that was not already known when you reached your previous decision. Do not let those with clear political or financial motives keep you from doing what is right. Please ensure that all people with visual impairments have equal access to television and the movies.

Thank you in advance for your time,

Alison Roberts

58 Hutchinson Road
Arlington MA 02474

Anne Fesh

From: James Rogers [jrogers@cpol.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2000 10:02 PM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: Docket No. 99-339

This letter is IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION.

I wish to express my appreciation for your courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description to television programming. It is very important for anyone who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means for knowing what's happening on the television. I currently receive the descriptive videos and enjoy them very much, however, they are very limited in what's available.

I cannot express how strong my feelings are for this type of programming, the value of the descriptive videos to me cannot be stated in a few words. The petitioners who are asking for this to be reconsidered must be sighted people and I realize it is hard for them to understand the importance of this to visually impaired people, but to my knowledge they have not provided any new information to the FCC.

I am 65 years old but still work at employment which is geared for the visually impaired, I cannot get a job in the regular workforce of this country. With my vision problem I do not attend functions as sighted people do, what good would it do me to go to a football game for example when I couldn't see what's going on? With the descriptive videos I can enjoy a movie, it would be wonderful to have the capability to have all programs described to me.

I strongly urge you to go forward with your decision to make this available to all of us.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

James Rogers

This letter was written by my spouse Marietta Rogers

Anne Fesh

From: Christine Romano [Christine.Romano.B@bayer.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 11:01 AM
To: - *info@acb.org; - *access@fcc.gov
Subject: VIDEO DESCRIPTION

The Federal Communications Commission
Magalie Salas, Secretary
445 125h Street, SW
Washington, D.C.
No.99-339

Re:Docket

Sirs:

We applaud your ruling requiring the television networks to video describe their programs. It would be so wonderful for our visually impaired friends to be able to watch television with their friends and family and understand the action that is taking place.

We are appalled that petitioners have asked the Commission to reconsider its ruling, especially since they have not put forth any new information that was not known at the time the Federal Communications Commission made its decision. For all the above reasons, we are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

Thank you

Anne Fesh

From: Joe Romano [jromano19@email.msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 10:20
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: Docket No. 99-339

The Federal Communications Commission
Magalie Salas, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C.

Re: Docket No.99-339

Sirs:

We applaud your ruling requiring the television networks to video describe their programs. It would be so wonderful for our visually impaired friends to be able to watch television with their friends and family and understand the action that is taking place.

We are appalled that petitioners have asked the Commission to reconsider its ruling, especially since they have not put forth any new information that was not known at the time the Federal Communications Commission made its decision. For all the above reasons, we are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Romano, Jr.
27 Courter Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10705

11/1/2000

Anne Fesh

From: Cheryl Roshka
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2000 9:09 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: JULY 21, 2000 RULING
Dear FCC Commissioners,

This communication is to extend my most deepest appreciation for your courageous decision on July 21, 2000 requiring the television networks to provide video descriptions for television programming.

Video descriptive television will be a great asset for me and others who have limited and no vision to enjoy television programs in a more enjoyable manner and without having to have someone else tell me what is going on.

I am "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION".

PLEASE STAND FIRM IN YOUR COURAGEOUS DECISION AND DO NOT REVERSE YOUR DECISION.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl A. Roshka
Cheryl A. Roshka
96 Sills Avenue
Prospect, CT 06712
roshlaar@dellnet.com

10/31/2000

Anne Fesh

From: Rothermel, Melissa [melissa.rothermel@sap.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2000 8:16 AM
To: 'access@fcc.gov'; 'info@acb.org'
Subject: In Opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

Hello,

This is in regards to official filings (Docket No. 99-339). I want to express my support for video description and I appreciate the FCC's July vote.

I applaud the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

It has been very valuable for my 3 siblings to have access to descriptive video programming, and I have been looking forward to turning on my TV set in April, 2002 to enjoy television shows with my family and friends with visual impairments who use the video description to help understand the visual aspects of the programming.

Video description is extremely valuable and the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. This is a crucial component of any petition to reconsider.

I hope that in the future video description becomes as prevalent as closed captions are now.

Thank you for your time.

Melissa Rothermel

November 6, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20054

Letter content: opposition to petitioners for the reconsideration of the reported order on video description: (Docket No. 99-339/official filings)

Dear members, Disability Rights Department staff and Commissioners of the FCC,

As a United States citizen who is visually impaired, I am writing to extend my sincere appreciation to the FCC for their historic and courageous vote for the allocation of video description to be provided for by way of television and cable network transmissions and the motion picture industry. I sincerely look forward to the day in the near future when it will become possible for myself and several million other viewers to be a part of this most special and necessary opportunity to watch television and movies alongside our sighted counterparts. This past summer alongside community members of the American Council of the Blind, I was fortunate enough to be in attendance of the FCC's vote in Washington DC, and was pleased with the outcome of the day's events.

Most recently, I was informed that perhaps some television networks, industry giants and entities who claim to represent the best interests of all blind individuals, are in opposition of the FCC's vote. I must simply say that I am writing in opposition to the recent petitioners against the July 21st ruling in support of Video Description programming to be effective by April of 2002. Thus, I am submitting comments by writing in opposition to petitioners for the reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

The value of being able to access video programming through a number of sources with adequate description in place not only proves to be informative for immediate accessing but allows to further establish a forum for future programming to be created in new programs and in countries outside of the United States. Every blind and visually impaired person who views television and movies has every right to be able to access these programs with equal access with no barriers. By this, equal access is simply that of seeing to it that video description is provided for at all levels. Educationally, video description offers both the blind and sighted optimal abilities with "optional" but necessary means by which to enhance learning and extract vital information to make equal conclusions and proper analysis of the programming being presented.

To date, the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and its ruling. I sincerely urge that the Federal Communications Commission allow for this ruling to remain intact for the benefit of both the blind and sighted who wish to simply access equal information in this most necessary media format. For individuals who wish to be apart of equal access through several communication networks in this day in age, video description presents an imminent valuable resource for all to live, learn and work hand in hand with unlimited unbiased access.

Should you require further information from myself and others in opposition to petitioners for the reconsideration of the reported order on video description, do not hesitate to contact myself and/or the national office of the American Council of the Blind.

Respectfully,

Richard A. Rueda

Edwin Rumsey and Catherine Gleitz
601 South Shepherd, Suite #148
Houston, Texas 77019
H. Ph. (713) 524 7265
W. Ph. (713) 512 4921

FCC. Official Filings Docket NO. 99 339

The Federal Communications Commission
445 12 TH. Street
South West Washington, DC.20554

To: Magaile Salas Secretary of The Federal Communications Commission

Thank You for your courageous vote on July 21, 2000 for the implementation of Audio Description on Commercial TV beginning on April 20002. At the present time Audio Description is only available on our Educational Channel 8. For a Blind person Audio Description fills in the missing elements such as facial expressions ,scenery changes as well as bridging the gaps in the story by painting pictures with verbal description. TV shows on Channel 8 that have Audio Description exclude The American Experience, Nature, Building Big and Nova as well as Master Piece Theater . I look forward in turning on my TV in April 20002 with Audio description and being able to watch prime time television special shows such as The academy Awards, Olympic Pageantry as well as other specials with Audio Description on a equal par of hearing impaired persons receiving Closed Captioning. There is no need to revisit this issue RE Audio Description since the facts for its need have been made perfectly clear.

Thank you again and hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,

Edwin Rumsey
Edwin Rumsey

Anne Fesh

From: Verne Sanford [Verne.Sanford@valpo.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 7:36 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: My letter to the FCC

906 Jefferson
Valparaiso, IN 46383
November 1, 2000

The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 99-339
Comments In Opposition To "Petitioners For Reconsideration" Of The Reported
Order On Video Description

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for voting to require television networks to provide descriptive programming, beginning April, 2002. I am legally blind, and I can assure you that described television is very important to the visually impaired.

For several years, I have enjoyed watching (hearing) descriptive videos from the Library of Congress talking book program. Modern videos and television programs seem to contain more and more "visual" time; description is the only way for a person with low vision to understand the content.

It is my understanding that the petitioners for reconsideration have presented no new information, different from that which you already knew at the time of your original ruling. Therefore, I urge you to stand firm in your decision to require descriptive television programming.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

(Mr.) Verne R. Sanford

Anne Fesh

From: Audrey Schading [AudreyS@jgb.org]
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 5:36 PM
To: 'access@fcc.gov'
Cc: 'info@acb.org'
Subject: For Magalie Salas: Great appreciation for descriptive network TV (Docket 99-339)

Dear Magalie Salas:

This letter is in regard to Docket 99-339

The following comments are "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERSFOR RECONSIDERATION FOR THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION."

As a concerned, caring parent/educator/consumer who is blind, I was so appreciative and delighted to see the excellent progress which was made by FCC commissioners on the July vote regarding the new regulations for described networkscheduled to begin in April, 2002.

Having visual parts of a program professionally described is providing us with a vast amount of new and valuable information, information which is automatically known to everyone else.

I mentioned all of my above roles as they all reflect on how our TV media is used. It is not only an important form of entertainment, but also can be an effective educational tool, with a multitude of instant information. By having the addition of what's happening on the screen gives much more depth and worth to the program.

If you do not have a vision problem yourself, try "watching" a program without looking at it even for a moment. Then, watch it again with your eyes, and note how much you missed!!

Please note that the petitioners against these regulations have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling.

Audrey Schading

Anne Fesh

From: Marian328@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 12:15 PM
To: ACCESS@fcc.gov
Cc: INFO@acb.org
Subject: DVS

328 RUBY STREET
LANCASTER, PA 17603
OCTOBER 31, 2000

MAGALIE SALES, SECRETARY
THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12th STREET, SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

RE; DOCKET NO. 99-339

DEAR MS. MAGALIES, I APPRECIATE THE WORK FCC HAS DONE REQUIRING NETWORKS TO BEGIN DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO F/T BLIND. LISTENING TO ONE TV PROGRAM WITH YOU EYES CLOSED YOU WILL REALIZE THE NEED. THIS LETTER IS "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION." THE PETIONERS HAVE NOT PRESENTED ANY NEW MATERIAL. TO A VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSON DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO IS INVALUABLE.

TRULY YOURS,
ROSE ANN SCHALLER
FRANCIS F. SCHALLER

Anne Fesh

From: Jeanette M Schmoyer [jmschmoyer@juno.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 4:07 PM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org; tonyswartz@lehighcounty.org
Subject: FCC

430 East Paoli Street
Allentown, PA 18103
October 31, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D. C. 20554

RE: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing to express my support for video description for television programming and to express my appreciation for the FCC 's July ruling. I have been legally blind since age 12 and I am now 58. There are eight members of my family who have a genetic juvenile macular degeneration condition which causes legal blindness at an early age. My siblings, nieces and nephews and I will all benefit from video descriptions as well as millions of others in our country. It is a clear disadvantage for us not to be able to access television programming, whether that is storm warnings that run across the bottom of the screen or quality entertainment offered by network and cable television. I urge you to hold steady on your decision to have networks provide this essential information to people who are blind and visually impaired. The limited video descriptive services provided by Public Television is so helpful and I am looking forward to increased accessibility to television programming beginning April 2002.

The petitions for reconsideration submitted by associations of the television, cable and motion picture industry are not offering any new information that was not available and considered before the FCC decision and ruling. Please do not be swayed by the power and self-interest of these industries and do stand courageously with people who are blind and visually impaired.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Jeanette M. Schmoyer
jmschmoyer@juno.com

Anne Fesh

From: Schurisa@aol.com
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2000 1:31 PM
To: info@acb.org; access@fcc.gov
Subject: video description

3619 SW 30th St. Terr.
Topeka, KS 66614-2803
Nov. 6, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Secretary:

I was the Director of Services for the Blind for the State of Kansas from 1976 to 1997, so I understand the significance of providing video description for television programming if such is to be meaningfully accessible to persons who are blind.

I thank the Commissioners of the FCC for voting to require this information service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

I believe it is critical for any person who cannot see the television screen to have an alternative means for knowing what is happening on the screen. Video description provides such an alternative. Therefore, my position is in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. These petitioners have not provided any new information that was not already known when the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. I urge the ruling and decision be allowed to stand.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Schutz, Ph.D.

Anne Fesh

From: WalkgDDog@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 11:11 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Docket No. 99-339

The following is a copy of my comments sent Magalie Salas:

Benita Shor
202 Park Avenue
Madison, NJ 07940-1128

November 8, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am submitting comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

I was thrilled when the Commissioners voted so courageously to require the networks to begin providing video description. My mother was completely blinded in 1988 so I fully appreciate what an essential service this is to the blind and visually impaired. The limited offerings to date (thank goodness for PBS)! have really made a difference in her ability to fully participate in the world around her. A more complete schedule of enhanced programming would do much to break down the sense of isolation suffered by so many of the visually impaired.

The petitioners have not provided any new information not previously considered at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. I can only trust that the Commissioners will, therefore, take the most reasonable approach and deny this petition. Please do not let me down.

Sincerely,

Benita Shor

Jim Shore
3800 North 45th Avenue
Hollywood, Fl. 33021

November 9, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

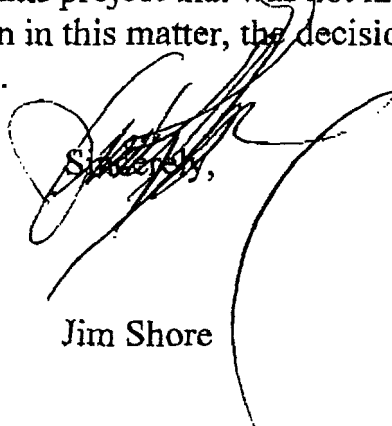
RE: DOCKET NO. 99-339

Dear Secretary Salas:

I would like to express my appreciation for your vote to require the networks to begin providing essential information to people who are blind and visually impaired via the video description project. This will be of great value in assisting me to enjoy television shows with my sighted friends and family.

I am submitting the following comments in opposition to petitions for reconsideration of the reported order on video description:

It would seem that since there is no new information from the petitioners in opposition to this project that was not known at the time that the FCC reached its decision in this matter, the decision to go forward with this project should continue.



Jim Shore

JS/cac

H:\Carol\Collier\Documents\JIM\JSfec11-9-00.mem.doc

November 4, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Docket No. 99-339
Official filing in opposition to petitioners
for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

Dear Secretary Salas:

I am writing to you today for two purposes: The first is to thank you and the rest of the Federal Communications Commission for the courageous stand you took on July 21, 2000. As a visually impaired person, I cannot tell you how excited I am when I think about April, 2002. I cannot wait to watch programming produced by the major television networks that is accessible to me. I strongly believe that *all* Americans should have the same right to entertainment as well as news and emergency information. Our visual impairments should not keep us from being connected to the rest of the world--we are people too!! We want to be able to watch the news, sitcoms, sports, and most importantly, we want to have access to emergency information.

The petitioners have not introduced any new information that was not already known when you reached your previous decision. Do not let those with clear political or financial motives keep you from doing what is right. Please ensure that I and all people with visual impairments have equal access to television.

Thank you in advance for your time,

Jonathan Simeone

6 Plymouthroad
Winchester, MA. 01890

Anne Fesh

From: Access Access [Access@fcc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 6:08 PM
To: ccotb@earthlink.net
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Re: Video Description Response letter to FCC Oct 31, 2000

Thank you for your letter. We will keep a record of this.
Disabilities Rights Office
Federal Communications Commission

>>> California Council of the Blind <ccotb@earthlink.net> 10/31/00 06:00PM >>>
October 31, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Salas:

The California Council of the Blind (CCB) was founded in 1934 and since that time has advocated on behalf of the blind and visually impaired men and women of California and the United States. We are the California affiliate of the American Council of the Blind (ACB). Our Council is the largest membership organization of its kind in the country.

On behalf of our members I am writing to urge you to uphold the ruling made on July 21, 2000 with regard to the provision of video description by April 2002. Many of us enjoy news, sports and movies and we have been very excited to know that, at long last, some of these will be described for us, making them much more enjoyable. We do not understand the objection of some to video description. Those who are not interested simply need not turn their VCR. It is regrettable that a few people, who are perhaps not as well informed, want to deny the opportunity for video description from those of us that desire it.

Your support in upholding the ruling voted on July 21st will be very much appreciated by our membership and myself.

Sincerely,

Catherine P. Skivers
President